



THE RICE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Rice County, Minnesota

408 Division Street, Northfield, MN

Fall 2015

The Rice County Genealogical Society meets at 2:00 on the 3rd Tuesday September –May alternating between the Rice County Historical Society Museum, 1814 NW 2nd Avenue, Faribault and the Northfield Historical Society Building 408 Division Street, Northfield (lower level) . Special meetings may be called for research trips or for working on projects.

MEETING DATES:

November	17, 2015.....	Northfield	2:00 Election of officers
December	15, 2015.....	Faribault	11:30 Lunch at PERKINS followed by 2:00 short meeting at Rice Co. Hist. Soc.
January	19, 2016.....	Northfield	2:00
February	16, 2016.....	Faribault	2:00
March	15, 2016.....	Northfield	2:00
April	19, 2016.....	Faribault	2:00
May	17, 2016.....	Northfield	2:00

OFFICERS:

President:	Dave Madole	davemadole@hotmail.com
Vice President:	Arlene Williams	
Secretary:	Mary Zabel	select2@kmwb.net
Treasurer:	Chuck DeMann	cdemann@gofast.am

Dues are \$10 for an individual and \$12 for a family. Find an application on the back of this newsletter.

The Gleanings newsletter is included with membership.

To contribute to the Newsletter contact Harriet Berg <hgbergmn@ix.netcom.com>

Members are actively working on their family lines and searching out the history of those who came to live in or passed through Rice County.

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Feb. 18, 2014 Dorothy Herkenratt being presented flowers from Cheri Albers on behalf of the Rice County Genealogical Society for her many years as RCGS Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Publisher. Photo by Ed Williams

IN MEMORY OF

Dorothy A. Chester Herkenratt

Our friend and fellow genealogist, long time member of the Rice County Genealogical Society, our Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor/Publisher of the RCGS Gleanings newsletter (to which she contributed many articles)

"... died at her home in Faribault on July 16, 2015 at age 89 years...

Dorothy was born in Northfield, Minnesota on October 22, 1925 to Edward Ogden and Ethel May (Orr) Chester and grew up on their farm on the edge of Dundas. She graduated as valedictorian from the Dundas Public School ... attended Carleton College majoring in Greek with minor in

Philosophy and Religion, with additional courses at the University of Minnesota. Her first career was in banking and insurance ... and her second in the field of education at St. James School ... and Shattuck-St. Mary's School ... until her retirement in 1993... Following her retirement, she continued pursuing her interests in writing and genealogy, having published short stories, poems and family histories...

Dorothy was descended from several of the influential early Rice county pioneer families: Job and Anne (Jeffries) Chester (Anne being the first white woman to live in Bridgewater Township and whose grandmother was sister to Queen Victoria's mother); the Hon. Joseph and Sarah Frances Ogden Covert; William Blackmore and Mary (Borthwick) Taylor (William being the first millwright/miller brought by the Archibalds to build the Dundas mills and whose daughter, Clara Elizabeth "Dolly" Taylor Orr, was the first white child born in Dundas)..."

Dorothy was married June 17, 1951 to Richard Milton Herkenratt (b. Nov. 17, 1925 d. 14 Jan. 2010) She is survived by three children Susan, Sally Ann and Brian, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The preceding excerpts were taken from Dorothy's Obituary Northfield News July 22, 2015.

A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE ALBERS AND SCHRADER FAMILIES

Written by **Eileen Schrader Fehner** daughter of **Fred and Gladys Schrader** 1947

The Albers Pioneers

In the middle of the nineteenth century the burdens of militarism, constant wars and heavy taxation were weighing heavily on the farming population of the numerous German states. As a result great numbers of the rural German families sought the shores of the New World.

Among them was the widow, Adelaide Albers, born Adelaide Meyer in 1792. At the age of 61 she left her home in Sulingen, Hanover, Germany, to come to America with her son, Frederick Albers, born about 1814, and christened Johann Friedrich Ernst; Friedrich's wife, Sophie Marie Rupkens, born in Varrel, Germany, Nov. 8, 1819; Friedrich's and Sophie's four children, Henry, William, Margaret and Fred; and Friedrich's younger brother, Henry, born Nov. 1, 1831. One brother, Christian, remained in Germany and disappeared in the wars.

Upon landing in New York in July, 1853, the Albers came directly to Milwaukee where they operated a small grocery store and bar for four years. In 1856, three years after arriving in the United States, Frederick Albers applied for and was granted U.S. citizenship in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.

Among the several papers I have here as exhibits are Friedrich's naturalization papers in which he expressed his desire to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign sovereignty and particularly to George the Fifth, King of Hanover.

In 1857 the Albers left Wisconsin in a covered wagon to settle the claim which had been staked out by Friedrich and Henry on their trip to Minnesota the year before.

A fifth child, Charles, christened Henry Carl was born to Friedrich and Sophie on their way to Minnesota, probably near LaCrosse.

There were a few scattered settlers in the Northfield area when they arrived. Northfield itself was a community of two houses, one on either side of the river.

The Albers party stopped overnight at a farm, now the location of the Anderson Farm Hatchery, in order to look for a place to ford the Cannon River. The next morning they continued their journey to the sixteen acre claim staked out the previous year. This claim was located in Section 6, Bridgewater Township, and six miles west of Northfield. At one time in his life Frederick owned as much as 1300 acres.

The Albers brought with them four cows, two yoke of oxen and enough wheat to seed a few acres the following spring. Hail, however, beat their first crop into the ground. Their only alternative was to gather up the heads and rub out the wheat. At the end of their painstaking labor they had enough seed to plant their crop the following spring. When the Albers arrived in the fall of 1857, Friedrich's wife Sophie had only two pounds of sugar, which she had brought from Milwaukee. These two pounds, however, lasted the family the entire winter.

The wheat raised during the first years was hauled to Hastings, the site of one of the earliest flour mills of the area. The butter, eggs, dressed poultry, dressed beef and pork were taken to St. Paul via the Dodd Road, which ran from Mankato to St. Paul. Most of the hauling of produce was done in caravans for the purposes of safety and companionship.

Most provisions had to be procured in Hastings or St. Paul during the first year; in 1858, however, J.S. and G.M. Archibald established a general store in Dundas-the first store to be erected in that village.

Circumstances, therefore, required that the little community be practically self-sufficient. All the clothes were necessarily made by hand, including the denim overalls dyed brown with walnut shells. A community set of baby clothes passed from one family to another as circumstances demanded. If a garment wore out, it was replaced by the family using the clothes at that time.

One of the favorite dishes of the times was one made from wild crab apples which were picked after the first frost, put into the oven until they blistered, when the skins would be slipped off easily. The apples were then boiled and sweetened in sugar.

In 1857 the United States Government built what was referred to as the Knoles school house located on the present site of District No. 67, Webster Township. The oldest of the Frederick Albers children attended this school. As there was no road built as yet, the children walked the six miles through the woods.

When speaking of the difficulties and hardships faced by his family in their new home, Charles Albers, son of Frederick and Sophie, often remarked that they were all just as happy "as if they were in their right mind."

Three children were born to Frederick and Sophie after their arrival in Minnesota: a baby who died immediately after birth in 1858; John and August, who died at the age of seventeen.

In 1860 **Henry Albers**, Frederick's younger brother, married **Christine Kluth or Clute**, born Jan. 15, 1841. The children born of this marriage were **Henry Frederick Charles** (1861), **Dora** (1863), **Louis** (1865), **Ernst** (1866), **Anna** (1867), **Sophia** (1869), Mary (1871), and **Louisa** (1875).

Henry served in Company H, Fourth Minnesota Regiment, during the Civil War.

In 1866 the Albers families assisted in cutting ties for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway, which was built through Dundas in that year.

Adelaide Albers, mother of Frederick and Henry, died Jan. 7, 1875, at the age of 83 years. Frederick died October 20, 1892, and was followed in death by his wife, Sophia, April 20, 1899. Henry, Frederick's younger brother, died August 2, 1915; his wife, Christine, April 26, 1926. They were all buried in Rolling Green Cemetery which had been laid out in 1858 on land adjoining the Albers farms - facing what is now Highway 19. (Later changed to Old Dutch Road)

One morning in September in the year 1876 Henry Albers' seven year old daughter, Sophia, was pumping water at the well. Several men on horses stopped to ask for a drink of water, thanked the little girl for her kindness and rode on.

Sophia Albers, who later became Sophia Schrader after her marriage to Fred Schrader, son of Henry Schrader, often told her grandchildren of the bright September morning of the Northfield bank robbery, when members of the Jesse James-Younger Brothers' gang asked her for a glass of water.

I am preparing a family tree which lists the names and dates of the descendants of each of the early Schrader and Albers pioneers down to the present generation, which information was too detailed to include in this paper, - perhaps too confusing also, because the names Henry, Fred and Charles were apparently immensely popular.

I am reminded of the man in the Minneapolis bus depot who announced a telephone call for Mr. Johnson. All the men in the depot got up and started walking toward his desk. The messenger hurriedly added that it was Mr. John Johnson he was paging. One of the men sat down.

The Schrader Pioneers

In Braunschwei, Germany, in the 1850's, **Henry Schrader**, one of the many sons of a blacksmith, began to feel that the New World could offer him greater opportunities than the old. He had been working as a blacksmith in Hanover, Braunschwei and Micklenburg but as he was not the oldest son who inherited the father's business, Henry entertained few hopes of ever being able to establish himself in his own blacksmith shop, with the economic and political conditions being what they were at that time.

After a long, strenuous journey, the 21 year old blacksmith landed in New York in 1854. At intervals, after his arrival in the United States, Henry corresponded with his family in Germany. Some years later a brother left Germany for America. The family wrote Henry requesting that he help his brother upon his arrival. Unaware, apparently, of the magnitude of the New World they gave simply America as his destination. Henry was never able to locate him.

After his arrival in New York, stories of Chicago lured Henry westward. Several men sold him a ticket to Chicago on a non-existent railroad. When he learned of the knavery, he retraced his steps and located the men who had sold him the worthless ticket. Brandishing his lead-tipped walking cane, he forced the men to return his money.

Upon his arrival in Chicago, he was impressed with the festive atmosphere, although the people seemed unnecessarily boisterous. He soon learned the significance however of the day on which he arrived in Chicago. It was the Fourth of July.

News of a German settlement in Milwaukee reached him in Chicago and he left immediately. In Milwaukee he was able to establish himself as a blacksmith after working several months on the railroad. It was in Milwaukee that he met **Margaret Leuring**, born in Hanover, Germany, September 6, 1834. The first child of this marriage was born in Milwaukee but died shortly after birth.

In Milwaukee Henry Schrader also met the Albers and Berg families who left for Minnesota in 1857. Henry Schrader helped the Albers drive cattle through the brush to Minnesota several times within the next few years. These trips aroused in him a keen desire to stake a claim in Minnesota for himself.

In the early spring of 1859 Henry and his wife set out for Hastings, Minnesota. After a delay at Reed's Landing because of the ice on Lake Pepin, they reached Hastings where they took a stage coach to Northfield.

From Ludwig Hartman they bought eighty acres in Section Six, located seven miles west of Northfield along Heath Creek near the Albers and Berg claims. Here they built a small shanty in which they lived for five years and in which their second child, Henry, was born June 21, 1859. In 1866 they built a log cabin which was their home until 1881 when the brick house now standing was built.

The marshland of Heath creek along which they settled provided the early families with hay, which they sorely needed. The grass was cut with a scythe, carried out on long poles, and much of it sold at one dollar a ton.

Henry and his wife were without oxen until their second year in Northfield. Out of necessity, Henry walked to Hastings and back several times after their arrival to bring flour and other provisions.

Typical of the neighborly spirit among the early settlers was the helping hand which the Albers, Berg and Schrader families extended to one another. They pooled their labor, oxen and food whenever the occasion demanded.

Within a year after Henry and his wife had purchased their first oxen, the team was struck by lightning and killed. In the face of such setbacks they stayed on. The Civil War broke out, but Henry was not called to serve in the army because of a weak heart and poor teeth.

In the years that followed, another son, Fred, and three daughters were born. Fred born September 17, 1867, and Mary born April 14, 1872, survived, but Willimine and Sophie died in infancy of the so-called "summer complaint."

The settlers in the new community enjoyed the most friendly relations with the surrounding Indians. Many of the Indians from the Chippewa encampment on the shores of Union Lake brought pickerel caught in Heath Creek to exchange for fresh white bread. The white women gladly made the exchange for the sake of continued friendly relations.

When the New Ulm Sioux uprising of 1862 occurred in the midst of the Civil War, Henry and his wife with many others hurried to Dundas where they would be able to make a better stand against the Indians if the uprising spread to their community. The alarm fortunately proved to be only an alarm and life went on as before.

Henry and his wife Margaret were both members of the Evangelical church of Germany. During the early days of the settlement a Lutheran missionary, Wolfe, passed thru at intervals, visited them and baptized their first four children. After a time Wolfe no longer came, but about 1876 Moravians began holding services in the district schoolhouse located on the August Raasch farm facing what is now Highway 19 (Old Dutch Road), six miles west of Northfield.

Visiting neighbors and relatives was the most common diversion among these early families. When a group of people came together, there was usually square dancing and waltzing. Target practice and hunting were popular sports among the men. As the years passed, circuses passed thru the community frequently.

As the result of Henry's untimely death from pneumonia, March 24, 1885, at the age of 58, the two sons, Henry and Fred, were early left to manage the farm. Before his father's death, Henry, Junior, had bought a neighboring farm so Fred at the age of seventeen, managed the home farm with whatever help his brother could give him.

After the death of her husband, Margaret Schrader lived with her son, Fred, who on Nov. 12, 1891, had married Sophia Albers, daughter of Henry Albers. Henry Schrader, Junior, had married Anna Albers, sister of Sophia on January 26, 1888. Mary Schrader married Michael O'Donald and moved to Anoka, MN, where she is now living. On February 13, 1895, Margaret Schrader died at the age of 63 from a heart attack. Her son, Henry, died May 1, 1944, and Fred, her other son, lives at 210 Linden St., Northfield, MN.

The claims that were originally staked by Henry Schrader, Henry Albers and Frederick Albers are now held by members of their respective families. Harold Schrader lives on the land of his grandfather, Henry Schrader; Louise Albers on the land of her father, Henry Albers, and Alfred Albers on the land of his grandfather, Fred Albers.

It was not until I began making inquiries on this subject that I realized that I am living on the farm of my great-grandmother, Christine Kluth Albers.

Great as is the heritage of land, I feel that these early men and women, who thru their vision, their courage, their sense of values, and their philosophy of individual and community living, have left me personally a very great gift, as well as making a tremendous contribution to the development of a new community.

Obits from RCGS: Jan Dalby, John's wife, has completed the entry of all the obituaries given to them, spring 2014, from the RCGS. They say there were thousands of them. The entry of these obits was greatly helped by use of a scanner lent to them by Scott Boldt.

Year Books: they have recently finished entry of the Owatonna High School Year Books

The SOURCES for the Dalby database

Cemetery File: Most of the dates came from the headstones. Most of the other data from obits from Newspapers or funeral homes.

Civil War File: The data came from two books that were compiled by the Adjutant General and published in 1865 by the St Paul Pioneer Press.

Census File: Came from 1900 and 1910 Federal Census.

City Directory File: Came from Polk Directories

Birth Records File: Came from original Township Record Books stored at the Rice County Historical Society in Faribault

Marriage Records File: Numerous Sources

Newspaper Articles File: Mostly local Newspapers. The Minnesota Historical Society is in process of putting all old Minnesota Newspapers online.

People in Books File: Various sources that are identified

Church Records File: Various Church Records that are identified

Obituaries File: Various Newspapers and Funeral Homes; Biographies from various books identified in the article. Many of these books are online through google.

The following is an interesting obituary found among the new entries. **Obituary of Patrick Mahoney**
Northfield News; 0 2 Nov 1886 page 4: column 2&3

Patrick Mahoney's FuneralAnnunciation Cemetery, Hazelwood, Minnesota. Northfield people who were acquainted with Patrick Mahoney and had attended his funeral at Hazelwood on Thursday were terribly surprised last Friday evening to see Patrick get off the 9:15 train from St. Paul. The case of mistaken identity was given in Saturday's Pioneer Press. A man was killed by a fall from the fourth story to the basement of the new Endicott building on Fourth Street last Monday morning. His skull was cracked but his features were in no way disguised. He was of light

complexion, with light brown mustache, blue eyes and brown hair and of slight build. He was apparently about twenty-four years of age. This description fit two men. Patrick and James Mahoney. Cousins of Patrick living in St. Paul, having seen the account of the accident in the papers, came to the undertakers and claimed to positively identify the dead man as their cousin. A telegram was dispatched to the Mahoney home in Hazelwood, where Patrick's mother Johanna Broderick Mahoney resided with two of his brothers and a sister. Wednesday evening the two brothers, Michael and Thomas arrived in St Paul and were ushered into the dead room where the remains had been prepared for burial. They took a scant look at the uncovered face. "It's Pat; sure it's Pat", moaned the elder. Thomas and Michael muttered "It will kill the mother". With little further delay, the body was boxed up for shipment, the undertaker's bill paid. The coroner made out a death certificate and the brothers accompanied the remains back to the old home arriving that night. Old Mrs. Mahoney went into one faint after another and could not be consoled. That night the neighbors and friends came in and waked him. All preparations for funeral were completed. It was the largest funeral seen in Rice County since the burial of murdered Cashier Heywood in Northfield in 1876. It was estimated that more than 1000 mourners were present for the Mahoney's are one of the most prominent families in that section. The little church could not hold the half of them. The body was laid next to that of his father who died the year before. After the funeral, the brother Thomas went to the city to gather his brother's belongings. He went to the Western Hotel to obtain Patrick's trunk and was surprised to be told that Patrick had left moments before. Within a half hour, Patrick returned and Thomas saw with his own eyes that his brother was indeed alive. They immediately left for home. Upon arrival at the home, the mother was told "Patrick is alive" and she fainted dead away with the sight of him. The brothers revived her with cold compresses and laughter. The family sat up all night and talked and in the morning the boys set about the neighborhood to spread the good news. James McCabe almost fainted when Patrick offered to shake his hand and Pat Toohey admitted he got scarred out of a year's growth. John Hennessy, who knew Patrick since birth, was scarcely convinced that another man was not masquerading as Mahoney. About 4 o'clock a party made up the brothers, Pat Toohey, John Gleason and William Welch set out for the cemetery which was reached about 7 p.m. In an hour they succeeded in exhuming the remains which were placed in a wagon. About 11:30 they started for St. Paul. The remains of the man who was buried as Patrick Mahoney are now awaiting identification at the undertaker's in St. Paul.

The Dash Between

by Ron Tranmer©

*I knelt there at the headstone
of one I love and cried.
Name, with dates of birth and death
were perfectly inscribed.*

*I pondered these two dates
and how little they both mean
when compared to the tiny dash
that lies there in between.*

*The dash serves as an emblem
of our time here on the earth,
and although small, it stands for all
our years of life, and worth.*

*And our worth will be determined
by how we live each day.
We can fill our dash with goodness,
or waste our life away.*

*To ourselves, as well as others,
let's be honest, kind and true,
and every day, live the way
we know God wants us to.*

*May we look for opportunities
to do a worthy deed,
and reach out with compassion
to those who are in need.*

*For If our hearts are full of love
throughout our journey here,
we'll be loved by all who knew us
and our memory they'll hold dear.*

*And when we die, these memories
will bring grateful, loving tears,
to all whose lives were touched
by the dash between our years.*

www.rontranmer.com

Presented here with permission from Ron Tranmer.

A Birthday Bouquet for Mrs Hannah Clover

on her 74th birthday June 8, 1926

by Rev. L. S. Staff

Millersburg, Rice County, Minnesota

*Your good children have been planning
How to celebrate this day
You also the past are scanning
And your thoughts are far away.*

*You are thinking of the home
When to this fair world you came.
And how God's almighty power
For your help was e'er the same.*

*You have been the very sunshine
In your ever pleasant home
Love and peace you always combine
So that none away did roam.*

*But your children lingered longer
Where their Mother loved dwells
And their hearts were always stronger
Cause their Mother never tells.*

*You have been a kind dear Mother
To all those who love you best.
And for them there is no other
Whom they praised and often blest.*

*You would listen to their story
Of their joys, aches, pains and woes.
And their comfort was you glory
This their love to you now shows.*

*You have been an inspiration
To your church and Sunday School.
You deserve appreciation
As all work the Golden Rule.*

*Your good church has been better
Cause you always have been there.
You helped break the evils fetter
And spread courage everywhere.*

*May God often on you shower,
All His blessings from above.
May His everlasting power
Bear you up on arms of love.*

*May your even-tide be happy
Free from sorrow pain and harm.
May the angels at last place you
In God's everlasting arm.*

Hannah Clover born Johanna Blacklund was born 8 June 1852 the daughter of John and Lena (Benson) Blacklund. They were natives of Sweden, who immigrated to America and settled in Minnesota.

Hannah married Charles Leander Clover December 2, 1876 at Pine City, Minnesota.

They had three children

Lena Adele b. 23 Jul 1878 d. 19 Dec 1939

m. Louis E. Larson

m. Raymond Finlayson

Simeon Joseph b. 15 Mar 1881 d. 17 Oct 1941

m. Anna Marie Youngquist

Charles Philip b. 15 Jun 1891 d. 17 Aug 1953

m. Evelyn Petterson

Charles Leander Clover was born in Erie County, New York September 2, 1848 the son of R. B. and Abbegil (Reid) Clover, who were natives of New York. They came west in 1858 locating in Sunrise, Chisago County, where they farmed up to 1881. R. B. and Abbegil then moved to Pine County and died there. Charles L. Clover came to Millersburg, Forest Township, Rice County in 1878 where he bought a farm in section 15

Hannah died 23 Feb 1931.

Charles L. died 15 Dec 1926. Both are buried in Christdala Cemetery, Forest Township, Rice County, Minnesota

Charles P. Clover lived most of his life in the Millersburg area. He was owner of the Millersburg Store for a number of years. About 1937 he moved to Emily where he was manager of the telephone company, served as clerk of the town and clerk of the school board.

THE COUNTRY STORE

by Charles P. Clover 1936

contributed by Dave Madole

When memories take me backward,
To the good old days of yore,
To my mind there comes a vision
Of the old time country store.

A modest little structure
Was that old time crossroads mart.
But in the scheme of country life
It played a leading part.

Taxes, prizefights, politics,
They all were settled there
By experts sitting 'round the stove
On nail-keg, box, and chair.

Republican, and Populist,
And good old Democrat,
All munching crackers from a barrel
That in the corner sat.

Upon the shelves were cowhide boots,
Horsewhips, and candlemould,
Horse liniment, gun powder,
And the butter churns of old.

The cracker barrels and boxes,
We ne'er will see again;
Now everything from soup to nuts
Comes wrapped in cellophane.

The space that once held chewing plug
Has brightened up a bit,
It now holds batteries, castor oil,
Ink, aspirin, and Flit.

There are shoes, clothespins and Iodine,
Shinola, tape, and glue,
And the kegs that once held cider,
Are filled with Fleck's three-two

But the old time friendly spirit,
Still permeates the air,
And the same old friendly greeting,
Is waiting for you there.
We like to have you gather 'round,
As they did in days of yore,
Come over, shop and visit at

Charlie Clover's Store Millersburg

What Can Make Genealogy Catchy

by Mary Zabel

When one looks at a Pedigree chart that tells of the people who came before us and where they lived it enhances our sense of identity. It also gives one a greater longing and desire to know more about them and their life experience but often too late for us to know that information. But, is it in fact too late to find out more when descendants have left on their journey to another world? I have learned that researching multiple sources which document family members plus historical information about environmental conditions during their lifetime, it is amazing the story you might be able to construct that is factual. Analyzing the facts you have gathered brings us closer to who they were.

Finding and reading my husband's great-great-grandfather Charles Zabel's obituary¹ which back then, addressed more of the personal issues of their life than today, left me wondering about how he got from his initial inland destination of Kewanee, Illinois to his final destination, the Faribault area, and the comment that he had acquired personal wealth "living in luxury" which was news to current family members. Combing resource books at the Rice County History center in Faribault, I found a book from the 1880's written by a local man who interviewed residents of the area at the time.² In this book, it noted that great-great-grandfather came from Kewanee Illinois to Faribault in 1860 with his wife and six-month old son who was born the 30th of April that year. It means that he would have arrived here before the winter set in but still needed to deal with the hot summer issues with a young babe. His son, William, lived to age 64 so he survived his trek some 300 miles across three states to a promising area boasting of land for farming. Discussing this with our 11 year old grandson who is the 5th generation male and the only with the surname of his great-great-great grandfather and who loves geography, set his mind on fire to identify obstacles that they may have encountered. He is hooked wanting more information and willing to help search which is a thrill for me to experience in him. Because Charles's obituary had addressed that he had acquired wealth, I visited the records department at the Rice County Courthouse. The staff there assisted me in finding any landholdings Charles may have acquired from the time he arrived here to the time of his death. Over a period of 30 years, he purchased 17 small pieces of land, a piece ever year or every other year in a somewhat contiguous area, until the land holdings were about 200 acres. This land he later sold to his oldest son, William, which provided a living for William and his family of 9 children.

Further, Charles's obituary identified his family consisted of 13 children. The current families knew of 6 members in total from family lore; William, Emma, Fannie, Nellie, Louise and Charles H. Five census year comparisons and review of all birth records for the townships, in which they lived, identified a daughter, Mary, who left home early and had been lost in the shuffle. She was found in death records in Minneapolis, and was in fact confirmed by death certificate to be the daughter of Charles and Minnie. Through this comparison, Henry a young son was noted to have appeared on the 1870 MN census report but not the subsequent 1875 census report. Four of the above children, Charles H., Emma, Fanny and Nellie, had returned to the town of Charles's original settlement in Illinois in their late teens. These four had been lost to this family's verbal history. Research of the census documents on Ancestry.com and death records reviewed at the Henry County Courthouse in Cambridge, Illinois, where their records were filed, proved that they likewise were his children. Similarly, it confirmed that they had been born in Prairieville, Minnesota and were noted by census to have moved back to Illinois early in their lives. In analyzing this further, I was still plagued about the missing five children and how to insure adequate research had been conducted to determine the true facts about the children in this family. I looked at the marital date of Charles and his wife Wilhelmina. There were 4 years from the date they were married to the date when their first child was born (William, the one who came to Faribault with his parents). However, reviewing the subsequent census data, his next 6 children were then born 1 to 2 years apart for the following 9 years. Local genealogist and court recorder there indicated that until 1857 not all birth or death records were noted to have been reported particularly if a physician had not been present. Back to the drawing board. Research was done again of all birth and death records in Rice County in the townships in which he lived, but that failed to find any other children belonging to him whether born or deceased. Thus five children remained unaccounted if in fact his obituary is correct.

Now what? My husband, his sister and I planned to go to Kewanee Illinois this fall and review court house records there to answer that catchy question, did they really exist or did the Obituary have the wrong information. Obsessions can lead to nice vacations too!

TO BE CONTINUED

1. "Faribault Pilot", 21 October, 1904.
2. History of Rice and Steele Counties Volume I and II, 1910.

Rice County Genealogical Society
408 Division Street
Northfield, MN 55057

Stamp

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Type of Membership _____ Individual \$10 per year
_____ Family \$12 per year

Send application with check payable to Rice County Genealogical Society

Rice County Genealogical Society
Chuck DeMann, Treasurer
408 Division Street
Northfield, MN 55057